

Notes from Corporate Energy Managers COP In-person meeting at Metro Hall, Toronto

April 19th, 2024

Meeting Participants:

Desi Stefanova, CAP
Devanshi Kukadia, CAP
Will Baigent, Vaughan
Slobodanka Lekic, Cambridge
Suprajha Vaithianathan, Ajax
Kyle Rous, Caledon
Tom Pedlar, Burlington
Gil Amdurski, TRCA
Jose Rocha, Region of Waterloo
Calvin Pedro, Halton Region
Caitlin Rodger, Barrie
Adam McMullin, Barrie
Maria Ferreira, Toronto
Nina Popova, Toronto
Katie Phillips, Toronto
Scott Foster, Barrie
Sahdia Sandhu, Toronto
Jodi Janwin, Burlington
Mansheim, Wellington County
Delina Konomi, Toronto
Joel Arthurs, Toronto

Deepa Puthran, Guelph
Deepak Adhikari, Richmond Hill
Daryoush Kalali, York Region
Rafael Abo, Markham
Claire Sorley, York Region
Richard Pankratz, Niagara Region
Luke Reesor-Keller, Kitchener
Seiiyinthan Nageswaran, Halton Region
Mohammed Awojobi, Dufferin County
Christina Gagliano-Veiga, Toronto

Speakers:

Bryan Ho-Yan, Guelph
Duncan MacLellan, Toronto
Howlan Mullally, Toronto

Engagement Summary

Objective:

The meeting's objective was to maintain momentum in providing updates on the progress of municipal net zero initiatives. By sharing successes, challenges, and strategies, we expanded our collective understanding and advanced the shift from energy efficiency projects to net zero buildings. Additionally, the session sought feedback on future topics for webinars and meetings. We also gained insights from staff in Guelph and Toronto about their corporate and community energy efficiency and net zero projects.

Main recommendations from the engagement:

On CAP advancing the Net Zero Building Costing Study Guide, we heard that the formula for determining how to get to net zero is the same, and there are common elements/best

practices applicable to various building archetypes, so it would be of value to create a guide encompassing these transferable elements.

It would be of value to create a guide listing all the steps to make various existing and new corporate building archetypes net zero with step-by-step pathways/decision trees.

There is a growing need to train the operators. Training sessions can help familiarize operators with new technology, operations and maintenance and potentially ease resistance from the operators. Availability of on-demand training sessions during new staff onboarding could help address staff turnover issues. City of Guelph successfully conducted a training session in collaboration with the Federation of Canadian Municipalities and Canadian Institute for Energy Training.

Potential resources that would be valuable to the group for advancing net zero costing studies and net zero projects are – a database with all the available incentives and grants, training funds, costing information for retrofits for accurate budgeting, and information on peripheral cost considerations (utility upgrades, asbestos remediation, extra design, premium constructor fees, etc.).

It might be of value to undertake construction project management from the beginning of the project to better collaborate between municipal departments, project timelines, process and outcomes. This could potentially reduce some project costs as well.

Municipalities are waiting for more information on the ongoing maintenance and performance of net-zero buildings in leading municipalities such as Toronto.

Issues that surfaced during the engagement include:

Net zero building retrofits present more constraints as compared to constructing net-zero new builds. For building retrofits, it is worth undertaking entire net-zero process for existing buildings in one go to minimize future disruption for building users.

There are growing challenges to electrify public transportation fleets due to bankruptcies, delays in vehicle deliveries and other issues.

Budgeting for net-zero buildings is a challenge as the costs continue to rise over the period of approval and construction. It could be useful to have additional / green slush funds in addition to departmental budgets. This funding could also be potentially used to replace equipment during emergency failures with energy efficient alternatives.

Next Steps:

CAP will reach out to Mississauga to learn more about their BAS system and request them to present/share it with the CEM COP.

We request everyone to fill out this [Excel file with the software/platform](#) you are using and send it back to dstefanova@cleanairpartnership.org . CAP will conduct a session highlighting which municipalities use what software and the pros and cons of different software/platforms.

Next in-person meeting for this group is planned for Fall 2024. Keep an eye out for more details in the coming months.

Please let us know if we can develop any other projects, guides, resources or tools that will help you accelerate your corporate net-zero targets.

Other Resources:

Corporate Knights Article: [Here we go again: Ontario's reckless nuclear gamble](#)

TAF's [Future-proofing new homes with Conservation and Demand Management](#)

Contact information:

Please reach out to us at any time with additional information, questions, or input.

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